

INTRO: Shackleton's Ad. "Men wanted for hazardous journey. Low wages, bitter cold, long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in event of success." Over 5,000 applications. And a few women. Most likely a myth. **Adventure. Risk. Reward.**

Thesis: "Jesus is Lord, and He's got good work for us to do"

I. The NEED of the Harvest

A. **It's ready.** The Season is here.

ILLUSTRATION: Strawberries. It's time. We're opening! Family came as well. Workers. What happens when you don't have enough workers? Fruit goes bad. Doesn't get picked. Wasted opportunities. People go hungry. Economic loss. Ripples of impact.

B. **Same is true in the opposite, if it IS harvested.** Good Fruit. People get fed. **Society and culture is impacted.** People are **changed/blessed.** Joy & Peace (Satisfaction).

II. The PLAN (Workers) of the Harvest

A. **The Twelve** - All different. Different backgrounds. Different personalities.

1. **Simon/Peter** - "Rocky". Tough Guy. Act first, Think/Question later. Impulsive? Racist/Partial? Hated ROME & ended up in Rome.

2. **James&John** - Sons of Thunder. Zebedee. Fishing Family business. Wrath. Justice. Fire-heaven. James - Herod/Sword. John old Age.

3. **Andrew** - Peter's Bro - brought to Jesus. Behind Scenes. Ukraine/Russia/Kyiv. "X"

4. **Philip&Bartholomew (Nathanel)** - Friends. Nate: "No deceit." Honest/Blunt? Fig Tree. "You'll see even Greater things in my kingdom."

5. **Matthew(Levi)** - Tax Collector/Sinner. Traitor/Sell Out. Pastor/Evangelist in Jerusalem. Jews. Irony. (*Notice he doesn't leave out his life of sin.*)

6. **Thomas** - Skeptic. Doubt. Proof. Evidence. Logic. Pessimist. Realist. Academic. Facts. 1st Reformed/Presbyterian (PCA). India.

7. **James** - "the Lesser". Younger? Shy? Scholars think *he was the Shorter one.* You short? You Belong! Or just quieter? Shy? Introverted? It's ok! He will use you.

8. **Simon (The Zealot) & Thaddeus (Zealot)** - (Judas/Jude). Patriotic. Nationalist. Jews. Rebel against Rome. Star Wars/Empire. Violent rebellion. Democrat vs. Republican. **"Don't trust the Swamp."** Storm Capitol. **"Merica"/"Rusalem."**

9. **Judas** - Betrayer. Lover of Money. Greed. 1/12. Even Jesus had disciples who are undercover. Couldn't win them all. Wasn't part of the plan. Other purposes for him.

B. **The Plan is YOU!** *Notice the ones he tells to pray, are the ones he calls to go! :-)* "Wait a second! Aw come one. You did that on purpose."

C. **Specific audience.** For them it was **"Go the Jews"**. Now...for us **"Go to all nations."**

D. **He puts you on purpose to where you are.** *You are where you are for a reason. Your neighbors are your neighbors for a reason. What if?*

APPLICATION:

1. **So no matter what your background, personality, quirks, weaknesses, nationality, ethnicity, culture, favorite food, color or team or party.** And no matter your sins, by the grace of believing in this Jesus, answering His call to follow Him. You belong in His Kingdom. Jesus used them all. Wanted them all for himself and for one another. They each played a role. Even Judas. It was Judas' evil betrayal that led to our salvation.

2. **THE CROSS. Yes. Even that was part of His plan.**

III. The RISK of the Harvest

- A. **Tiring. Discouraging. Draining. Jaded.** Sorrows & Joys. Celebrations & Sadnesses.
 - B. **Begin with everyone the same.** *Greet them regardless of impressions/expectations.*
 - C. **Some will be receptive and others won't.** Sometimes you'll have to shake the dust off your feet. Sometimes you'll have to stop giving your pearls to pigs. The challenge is wisdom and patience. It can't be right away. But you can't allow yourself to be played, or abused, or strung along, or misused or taken advantage of. ***Others who need you.***
 - D. **Hard Work.** Sacrifice. Leave Homes. Hungry. Thirsty. Dependent on others.
 - E. **Opposition.** Enemies. They will hate you.
 - F. **He never promised it would be easy.** He never said every sermon would result in tears or clapping or encouraging words after. He never said every prayer would be answered. He never promised every presentation would be believed/received. He never promised every invitation accepted. He never said every child would believe. He never said every friend would repent. He never said every difficult person would change. He never said every tormenter would be nicer. **He actually tells them it'll be opposite.**
 - G. **He will be with you.** He will help you. Us too...Again. "I am with you always" (Matt. 28).
 - H. **The worst they can do** is ignore you, tease you, abandon you, expel you, outcast you, ostracize you, fire you, arrest you, mock you, insult you, torture you, beat you or kill you.
 - I. **Fear God, not man.** Only He can send to Hell. And you don't have to worry about that.
- ILLUSTRATION: Sparrows** don't die (**Robins in backyard**). **Hairs** aren't lost (**Hair Brushes**).
- J. **Believe. Have Faith.** Don't deny Him. He knows you and you know Him.
 - K. **It might even result in family turmoil or division.** Some believe and some don't. Rejected or despised by your own family. Some even captured, tortured & killed. **IRAN.**

IV. The REWARD of the Harvest

- A. **Miraculous things will happen.** Spirit will work through you. Power/Glory of God.
- B. **Esther 4:14-16—** *"It will come. One way or another....but what if it was you?"*
- C. **You will bear fruit.** **Is. 55** - You will go out in joy & be led forth in peace...
- D. **"The Kingdom of heaven is at hand."** **V.7.** **"Which side of history...?"**
- E. **You will get to experience the joy of reception, acceptance, seeing people come to faith and new life.** People will respond. Get saved. Change. Heal.Repent.Love. Answer
- F. **Our reward is heaven and experiencing all the joys of heaven including the fruit of our labors. Yes. The results of our work. The fruit.**

ILLUSTRATION: One of the best tomato sandwiches I had ever had was from a tomato I grew. **I once ate a zucchini raw and thought it was good.** Just because I grew it! It's part of the satisfaction and the fulfillment that it was something you helped bring about. Even though most of the work you didn't do. The actual miracle and growth and fruit and life and design is all from Him. But you get to delight and rejoice and enjoy and reap the benefits. **Cool water tastes better on a hot day. Dos Equis after the Tough Mudder.**

CONCLUSION: GENERATIONAL QUESTIONS:

- (1901-27) **Greatest - Is it Necessary?** (HardWork. Sacrifice. No Needs/Feelings. Sacrifice.)
- ('28-'45) **Silent - Is it Safe/Steady?** (Longterm jobs/homes. No change. Stable. Dependable.)
- ('46-64) **Boomer - Is it True?** (Facts. Results. Workaholics. Personal Wealth/Standards.)
- ('65-80) **X'ers (Lost) - Is it Authentic/Real?** (Transparency. Divorce. Watergate. Govmnt.)
- ('81-96) **Millenials - Is it Good/Meaningful?** (Make a Difference. Matters. Community.)
- ('97-12) **GenZ (Zoomers) - Is it Beautiful/Pleasant?** (Identity. Mental Health. Delights.)
- ('13-24) **Alpha ("Glass"ers) - Is it Fake/Simulated?** (Adaptation. Change. Fluidity.)
- ('25-39) **Beta (GenAI) - Is it Organic/Natural?** (Physical/Biological/Social/Unedited.)

The Gospel (of Jesus) is literally the ONLY answer to ALL of them.